OMB No. 10024-0018 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED JUL 0 7 200 4

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property				
Historic name Other name/site number	Hiawatha National Guard Armo	ry		
2. Location	4			
***************************************	N. First Street watha KS County Brown	Code 013	not for publication vicinity Zip code 66434-2604	
3. State/Federal Agency Certi	fication			
request for determination Historic Places and meets the X meets does not meet the nationally X statewide Signature of certifying official Kansas State Historical Soc	iety Kauss Sta bureau] meets [] does not meet the Natio	n standards for registeriements set forth in 36 Clamend that this property et for additional commen DS GLPO Date La Hollarus	ng properties in the National FR Part 60. In my opinion, be considered significant ts.) 5-24-04 Society	al Register of the property
State or Federal agency and	bureau			
4. National Park Service Certifica	,			
herby certify that the property is	-	ature of the Keeper		Date of Action
□ entered in the National Req □ See continuation shi □ determined eligible for the Register □ See continuation shi □ determined not eligible for National Register □ removed from the National Register □ other, (explain:)	National eet. the			

Hiawatha National Guard Armory		Brown Co., Kansas		
. Name of Property		County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed reso	urces in the count.)	
☐ private ☐ public-local X public-State ☐ public-Federal	X building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	Contributing Non-	sites structures	
		1		
Name of related multiple property I (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a		Number of contributing resorting the National Register	irces previously listed	
National Guard Armories of Kansas		N/A		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
DEFENSE / arms storage		DEFENSE / arms storage		
SOCIAL / meeting hall		SOCIAL / meeting hall		
<u> </u>		-		
		-		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	•	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
Moderne .		foundation CONCRETE walls CONCRETE		
		roof ASPHALT, METAL (steel)		
		other GLASS		

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brown Co., Kansas County and State
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE MILITARY
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Period of Significance 1938 - 1951
Significant Dates
1938, 1940
1000, 1040
Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A
Cultural Affiliation
N/A
1
Architect/Builder
Reynolds, Robert, - Architect
Paulette & Wilson - Engineers
one or more continuation sheets.)
Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Kansas State Historical Society

Hiawatha National Guard Armory		Brown Co., Kansas	_
Name of Property		County and State	
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property Less than 1	•		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) 1 1 5 2 8 3 7 4 0 4 4 1 4 3 3 6 Zone Easting Northing 2 Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	Zone 4 See o	Easting Northing Continuation sheet	
11. Form Prepared By			
Name/title Susan Jezak Ford Organization Citysearch Preservation	Date _	February 22, 2002	
Street & number 3628 Holmes Street	Telephon	e 816-531-2489	
City or town Kansas City	State M		
Additional Documentation			
Submit the following items with the completed form:		·	
Continuation Sheets			
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating	g the property's	s location.	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties Photographs Representative black and white photographs of Additional items		•	
(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)			
Property Owner			_
State of Kanaga Adii tant Canagalla Dart	-		_
name State of Kansas, Adjutant General's Dept.	folor	705 274 4000	
street & number 2800 SW Topeka Blvd.	_ telephone	785-274-1000	
city or town Topeka	_ state	KS zip code 66611-1287	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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		Brown County, Kansas

Section 7—Overview

The Hiawatha National Guard Armory is a multi-room, multi-level structure of cast concrete. The building faces east and is fronted by a two-story flat-roofed office building. A three-story-tall assembly hall with a steeply pitched roof is located at the rear of the armory. The building also contains garage bays on the north side. The building was constructed in 1938 in the PWA Moderne style by the city of Hiawatha and the Works Progress Administration. All windows are multipaned metal and the building is painted white.

East Façade

The east entry façade is eleven bays wide, consisting of a northern five-bay-wide office section pulled forward of the six-bay-wide entrance section. Decorative vertical indentations molded into the concrete are most prominent on this façade, running from ground level to the cornice or roofline. Moving from left to right, the first bay of the façade is filled by a massive pier that emphasizes the southeastern corner of the building. This pier consists of two broad, flat bands separated by two narrow strips of reeding, running from ground level to the roofline and flanked by smaller piers that end at the cornice level. The right side of this bay contains another vertically reeded pier that ends at the top of the second story. An indented square is placed above the shorter pier at the cornice level.

The second through sixth bays are topped by a parapet consisting of a solid horizontal band of concrete topped by a narrower, slightly recessed band of concrete. The second and third bays each contain six-over-six double hung windows at the first story and six-over-three windows at the second story. All of the windows are separated by vertical strips of concrete and placed within common indented spaces. Bays five and six are identical to bays two and three, culminating in a pier identical to the one immediately to the left of bay two.

Bay four contains the entrance to the building. The second story of this bay contains windows consistent with bays two and three; the left window has been replaced to accommodate an air conditioner. The first story contains a double glass door topped by a flat, half-circle concrete overhang ornamented with vertical reeding. A plaque is affixed to the right side of the entrance, listing the date of construction by the city of Hiawatha and the Works Progress Administration, as well as the names of the mayor, two city commissioners, the architect and the engineer. This bay is flanked on either side by wide piers that project slightly from the plane of the building. These piers each contain central reeding and the bands step slightly backward just above the porch overhang, in the middle of the second story and at the top of the second story. Small recessed squares are located above each pier in the parapet. Short rounded walls adjoin the concrete steps that lead to the entrance of the building.

The gable of the assembly hall rises behind bays one through six. The wall extends behind the office portion of the building and consists of a triangular peak with four shafts projecting above the roofline to

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

create a crenellated effect. A small peaked window is located in the lower center of the gable and the cornice line is indented.

Bays seven through eleven are contained within the north portion of the building pulled one bay forward of the entrance portion. (The south portion of this extension is identical to bays seven, nine and eleven of the east façade, described below.) The flat roofline of this section is slightly lower than that of the southern portion, but is configured with the same style of parapet. Bays seven, nine and eleven each contain two six-over-six double hung windows at the first story and two six-over-three windows at the second story, set in a slight recess. Each pair of windows is flanked by ground-to-cornice piers consisting of reeding surrounded by wider plain bands. Each pier is topped by a rounded concrete cap. Bays eight and ten consist of blank rectangles recessed in the concrete that rise from the bottom of the first-story windows to the top of the second-story windows. A low, concrete wall extends from the northeast corner of the building, stepping north along a driveway on the north side of the building and abruptly curving toward the east at the end of the driveway.

North Façade

The armory's north façade houses ten garage bays and consists of a two-story section on the east and a one-story section on the west. Bays one through five each contains paired six-over-three windows on the second story identical to those on the east façade and a metal garage door on the first story fronted by a common driveway. The cornice of this portion of the building is indented and each bay is separated by reeded piers that end just above the second story windows, topped by a rounded concrete cap. Bays six through ten are one-story-tall and set slightly back from bays one through five. Each also contains a metal garage door fronted by a common driveway. These bays are surrounded on each side by reeded piers topped with rounded caps. A flat wall and an indented cornice rises above the garage doors, ending at the sill level of the second story windows on the east portion of this façade. Low stepped concrete walls extend north of the building to the left of bay one, between bays five and six and to the right of bay ten. The slope of the assembly hall's metal roof can be seen behind bays six through ten. A tall chimney rises from the northeast corner of this assembly hall roof. The rear of the assembly hall extends west of bay ten and consists of a two-story flat wall with a first-story metal entrance door topped with a square overhang supported by metal poles. A reeded pier runs from the ground to the roof on the right of this doorway.

West Façade

The armory's west façade consists of the one-story garage portion in the north section and the three-story assembly hall in the south section. The one-story northern portion is sparsely ornamented, decorated only with a reeded pier on the far northwestern corner, an indented cornice and a slightly extended watercourse. The three-story assembly hall is pulled forward of the garage bays. The gabled portion of this section contains a slightly extended watercourse and a slightly indented parapet. Four

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concrete shafts are placed symmetrically in the gable peak and extend above the roofline. Three glass block windows are placed between these shafts in the peak of the gable and follow the upper outline of the gable. An exterior vent has been placed in the center window. This peaked portion is ornamented on the north and south corners with wide reeded piers identical to the one in bay one of the east façade. These piers wrap around each of the corners, continuing on the north and south sides.

South Façade

The south façade of the armory is divided into ten bays, all topped by an indented cornice. Bays one through six make up the south side of the assembly hall. Bay one is filled with the wide pier that wraps from the southwest corner. Bay two contains a metal garage door on the first story and a blank concrete wall on the second story. Bays three through five each contain a pair of rectangular glass block windows on the second story and four square windows on the first story. Each set of windows is slightly recessed into the wall and surrounded by a reeded pier identical to those on the north side of the building. Bay six consists of a solid section of plain concrete wall, with a ground-to-roof pier consisting of two wide, flat bands separated by reeding. Bays seven and nine each contain paired six-over-three windows on the second story, identical to those found on the east and north façades and paired six-over-six windows on the first story, also found on the east façade. Bay eight contains just one of each of these windows on each floor, surrounded by wide flat bands of concrete. Both levels of windows are set in slight recessions and surrounded by decorative piers that end just above the second story windows, topped with rounded caps. Bay ten is identical to bay one of the east façade.

Interior

The interior of the armory is divided into office spaces, the assembly hall and garage spaces. Offices are located on the first and second stories of the entrance portion of the building and on the second story of the northeastern section of the building. These offices are connected by foyers and hallways; floors are terrazzo. Auxiliary spaces in these areas include a kitchen in the southwestern corner of the first story and two conference rooms on the far north side of the second story. These conference rooms house the armory's museum and theater. A basement runs under this portion of the armory and includes a boiler room, former rifle range and vault placed on either side of the hallway. Interior walls on the first and second stories are plastered and interior basement walls are brick.

Garages are located on the first story along the north side of the building, with five located under the two-story northeast office block and five located in a one-story portion on the northwest portion of the building. Most of the garage bays have been converted to storage space.

The assembly hall measures 89 feet wide by 98 feet long. The ceiling is currently 21 feet tall, due to the installation of a dropped ceiling. The new ceiling incorporates the original iron truss framework for

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support and is some 14 feet below the peak of the original ceiling. The walls of the assembly hall are concrete and the floor is wood. Basketball goals are placed on all four walls.

Minor alterations to the Hiawatha armory include the addition of window air conditioners, the installation of insulated garage doors and the addition of a false wall covering the band room opening overlooking the drill floor, now used as a small classroom. A dropped ceiling and paneling have been added to the second-story "theater" conference room; wainscot paneling has been installed in the second-floor "museum" conference room. Wood coverings have also been placed over the small doorways in the basement that enabled coal to be brought in and clinkers to be removed.

Major changes include the insulated dropped ceiling recently installed over the drill floor and the reroofing of the building's flat roofs. This was accomplished by the addition of foam insulation covered with a layer of thin concrete sealed by hotmopping and chat (hot tar and gravel); while adding greatly to the insulative value, this did not affect the visual appearance of the building. The exterior of the building was sandblasted and painted in 1985. The currently flaking paint clearly shows the need for repainting, but the building overall remains in excellent condition.

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

Section 8—Overview

The Hiawatha National Guard Armory, built from 1938 to 1940, is being nominated as part of the National Guard Armories of Kansas multiple property listing. It is associated with the Pre-1951 Armories historic context and meets the requirements of Criterion A for the National Register of Historic Places in the categories of Community Planning and Development and Military. The armory is significant as a product of the Works Progress Administration, as one of only two armories built in Kansas with a combination of federal and local funds prior to World War II and for its use as an armory and community center. The Armory also meets Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the PWA Moderne Style of architecture. PWA Moderne is a subtype of the Moderne style that was commonly used for large, institutional buildings between 1933 and 1944. The style was used in Kansas primarily on buildings erected by the Works Progress Administration. The Hiawatha armory is an example of this style and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Pre-1951 Kansas Armories

The Hiawatha armory is one of only three armories in the state constructed prior to World War II.¹ Following anti-war sentiment during the 1920s and 1930s, the Kansas National Guard arrived at full unit strength during the Depression. Financial support from the federal government provided paychecks for the men in local units and also built armories through the WPA, a federal work program. The construction of the armory in Hiawatha was one tangible result in Kansas of the federal work project effort. Built between 1938 and 1940, it reflected a growing national trend by serving as a dual-purpose facility—as a National Guard facility and a community center.

History of the Hiawatha Armory

The Hiawatha National Guard armory received enthusiastic backing from its inception. When a plan was unveiled in the fall of 1938 for the construction of the very large structure, the town was extremely supportive. The proposed building, built with WPA assistance, would serve as a community center and as headquarters for the local National Guard unit and a Naval Reserve unit. The design was quite modern in appearance and the building would be sufficiently large to house basketball games, large meetings, dances and agricultural activities.

The physical construction of the armory began in May 1938 with work at a local stone quarry. Even before the building was officially approved in Washington, it was dedicated by the town's raucous German band, which assembled in the early hours one Tuesday in June 1938. *The Hiawatha Daily World* dutifully reported:

¹ Randall M. Thies, Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey, 1 January 2001, 13.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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"The idea," Bandmaster Beans explained to a reporter who dumbfounded The World office clock by showing up before 6 a.m., "is that we decided to dedicate the armory before anyone else got a chance. We have placed an official sign there, saying the place has been dedicated. No matter what may be done from now on about the armory she's certainly dedicated!"²

It was anticipated that the new armory would cost \$83,230, with the city of Hiawatha assuming \$38,810 of the costs. When completed, the monolithic concrete building would include a drill floor measuring 89 feet by 98 feet, several garages, two supply rooms, a band practice hall, a band storage room, a Naval Reserve room, three dining rooms, a kitchen, basement and several offices.

The building project employed a crew of 50 men. The early completion of the basement shell allowed work to progress through the winter of 1938 despite poor weather. By April of 1939, the basement was outfitted with a furnace, target range, lavatories and a shower room. Construction continued upward as offices were constructed on the top floor and the finishing touches for the assembly hall were considered.

Local excitement grew as the armory neared completion. *The Hiawatha Daily World* enthusiastically announced that the building would be used as a drill hall, headquarters for Hiawatha's two National Guard units, for public meetings, basketball games, the town's annual fall fair and other events.³ The Hiawatha Fall Festival—a combination of agricultural and horticultural displays—was held in the unfinished building in August 1940.

One of the armory's most detailed final touches was the laying of the drill floor. Installed in September 1940, the floor was remarkable in its modernity. Interlocking hardwood planks were laid over poured concrete, using no nails. The floor was as large as that of a typical college gymnasium's, an impressive size for the increasingly popular sport of high school basketball.

The armory was finally completed in September 1940. The final cost of the enormous building was \$123,000 with the WPA paying \$76,000 of the outlay. Upon completion, ownership was transferred to the National Guard, with the agreement that the building would be maintained by the Guard but frequently rented by the community.

² "German Bandmen Have Dedication for New Armory." The Hiawatha Daily World, 28 June 1938.

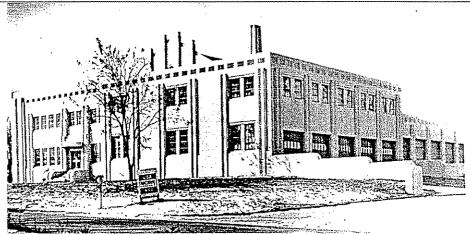
³ "Will Complete City Building by July 1." The Hiawatha Daily World, 26 March 1940.

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas



Hiawatha Armory circa 1940

The two Hiawatha units of the National Guard met in the building for the first time in November 1940, and began training in December 1940 for their impending departure to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. A farewell party, complete with a floor show and dance, was held on December 30. More than 1500 people crowded into the armory, the largest indoor event thus far to ever take place in Hiawatha.

Within one month of the completion of the armory, an agreement was drawn up for the high school to rent the building for basketball games. Initial concerns over the \$10 rental fee per game proved unfounded by the first game. The match between the high schools of Hiawatha and Sabetha in January 1941 attracted more than 500 fans, with points scored on new goals purchased by the city of Hiawatha and the Hiawatha board of education.

The armory continues to serve as a hub of activity for the town of Hiawatha. The building is staffed daily by the National Guard and operates as a base for the local unit. The gymnasium is also used daily for basketball and other activities. The armory's site just north of the juncture of U.S. Highway 36 and 1st Street provides a central location that is accessible to the entire community.

Style

The PWA Moderne Style evolved from the mid-1930s until the mid-1940s, bridging Art Deco and Moderne styles, while also incorporating the traditionalism of the Beaux Arts style. The Hiawatha armory is an excellent example of the PWA Moderne style, presenting a building that relies primarily on its geometric form and molded ornamentation for adornment. The silhouette of the assembly hall with the four piers that rise above the roofline imparts an Art Deco flavor and the massive front office wing provides a horizontal Art Moderne aspect. The result is a substantial, functional building that also evokes the town's enthusiasm for its construction.

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

The very material of the building—poured concrete—identifies the armory as a modern building while providing a medium for the understated decoration. The design by Robert Reynolds was progressive for its time, bringing a contemporary structure to fill the needs of the growing city. The design is similar to others used for armories in Illinois and possibly in other states, but was undoubtedly innovative for a small Kansas town. The armory's monolithic mass emphasizes the contemporary idea—likely born of the Depression—that large, public buildings should be simple of form. The piers rising above the assembly hall, a silhouette rarely seen in Kansas, provide a striking detail that make the building easily identifiable.

Upon completion of the armory, the local newspaper remarked on the new building's physical appearance and purpose:

Hiawatha's new armory building is one of the best, finest in the state. The armory will be used for national guard drills, to house national guard equipment, public meetings, big civic gatherings. The armory has spacious room space, can house any big event that may be in Hiawatha. The building is a structure that all the people are proud to have.⁴

The design of the Hiawatha armory met the WPA appeal for simplicity, an appeal that resulted in many interpretations of Modernistic styles across the country for institutional buildings. The Hiawatha armory is a fairly straightforward product of this school of thought, a basic structure that speaks clearly of the era of its design. The end result is a building that houses the local National Guard unit but also enthusiastically invites community involvement.

The Hiawatha Armory is a superb example of the PWA Moderne Style and retains much of its integrity in design, materials, workmanship and in its location. It is therefore eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

⁴ "Hiawatha's New Armory; Community Building." The Hiawatha Daily World, 26 November 1940.

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

Section 9

### **Bibliography**

- Ford, Susan Jezek. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation—National Guard Armories of Kansas. February 2002
- Thies, Randall M. Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey. Report submitted to the National Guard of Kansas, Adjutant General's Department, Director of Facilities Engineering, 1 January 2001. Ms. on file with the Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
- Thies, Randall M. Guarding the Guard's Cultural Resources: An Integrated Cultural Resources

  Management Plan for the Kansas Army National Guard, 2001-2006. Report submitted to the
  National Guard of Kansas, Adjutant General's Department, Director of Facilities Engineering, 20

  June 2002. Ms. on file with the Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

### The Hiawatha Daily World:

- "Work Is Started at Site of the Armory" 19 May 1938.
- "German Bandmen Have Dedication for New Armory" 28 June 1938.
- "As Hiawatha Armory Building Will Look When Work Is Completed" 18 October 1938.
- "Bad Weather Is Slowing Up Some Project Work" 24 January 1939.
- "Work is Going Forward On the Armory Project" 21 April 1939.
- "Special Floor for Community Building" 25 January 1940.
- "Will Complete City Building by July 1" 26 March 1940.
- "Work All Night On Concrete at New Building" 29 March 1940.
- "Big Displays In New Armory at Fall Festival" 21 August 1940.
- "Armory Will Be Ready for Use About Nov. 1" 23 September 1940.
- "Permanent WPA Projects In Brown Co" 15 October 1940.
- "Floor Is Being Laid In Drill Room at Armory" 7 November 1940.
- "C.C. Discusses New Armory at Night Meeting" 19 November 1940.
- "Hiawatha's New Armory; Community Building" 26 November 1940.
- "National Guard Moves Into New Fine Armory" 26 November 1940.
- "Legion Plan Farewell Party for Guardsmen" 13 December 1940.
- "High School to Use Armory for Basketball" 13 December 1940.
- "Guardsmen to Assemble for Duty Dec. 23" 14 December 1940.
- "All Invited to Attend Party for Guardsmen" 18 December 1940.
- "Guardsman to Start Training Monday Dec 23" 20 December 1940.
- "Guardsmen All Attend Classes While Training" 24 December 1940.
- "Will Present Floor Show at Farewell Party" 26 December 1940.
- "Give Guards Big Sendoff at Farewell Party" 27 December 1940.

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

The Hiawatha Daily World (continued):

[&]quot;Guardsmen Are Making Final Preparations" 30 December 1940.

[&]quot;Capt. Sterns Representative of New Armory" 30 December 1940.

[&]quot;New Armory to be opened for Farewell Party" 30 December 1940.

[&]quot;Large Crowd at Farewell Party for Guardsmen" 31 December 1940.

[&]quot;Service Unit Has Started to Camp Robinson" 1 January 1941.

[&]quot;Play Sabetha In New Armory Friday Night" 7 January 1941.

[&]quot;CC to Sponsor Ball Game In New Armory" 9 January 1941.

[&]quot;Big Crowd at First Game In New Armory" 11 January 1941.

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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Hiawatha National Guard Armory Brown County, Kansas

#### Section 10

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 29, Township 2 South, Range 17 East.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries include all of the land historically associated with the armory built for the Hiawatha National Guard armory in 1940.

